

***Morone saxatilis* (Striped Bass)****Priority 2 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)****Class:** *Actinopterygii* (Ray-finned Fishes)**Order:** *Perciformes* (Perch-like Fishes)**Family:** *Moronidae* (Temperate Basses)**General comments:** none**No Species Conservation Range Maps Available for Striped Bass****SGCN Priority Ranking - Designation Criteria:****Risk of Extirpation:** NA**State Special Concern or NMFS Species of Concern:** NA**Recent Significant Declines:**

Striped Bass is currently undergoing steep population declines, which has already led to, or if unchecked is likely to lead to, local extinction and/or range contraction.

Notes:

ASMFC Stock Assessment

**Regional Endemic:** NA**High Regional Conservation Priority:****Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC):**

Status: E, Last Examination: 11/1/2012, Change: In a higher risk category, Canada Occurrence: NB, NS, Atlantic Ocean

**Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Stock Assessments:**

Status: Unstable/Increasing, Status Comment: In 2012, the Atlantic striped bass stock was not overfished or experiencing overfishing based on the points estimates of fully-recruited fishing mortality and female spawning stock biomass relative to the reference points defined in this assessment.

Reference: Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. 2013. ASMFC Striped Bass Technical Committee. 2013 Update of the Striped Bass Stock Assessment using Final 2012 Data. Available from: <http://www.asmfc.org/fisheries-science/stock-assessments#StockAssessments>

**High Climate Change Vulnerability:** NA**Understudied rare taxa:** NA**Historical:** NA**Culturally Significant:**

Species identified as both biologically vulnerable and culturally significant by Maine's tribes.

**Habitats Assigned to Striped Bass:****Formation Name      Freshwater Aquatic****Macrogroup Name      Rivers and Streams****Habitat System Name:** Large River    **\*\*Primary Habitat\*\***    **Notes:** *adult spawning, juvenile***Habitat System Name:** Medium River    **\*\*Primary Habitat\*\***    **Notes:** *migratory corridor***Formation Name      Intertidal****Macrogroup Name      Intertidal Water Column****Habitat System Name:** Confined Channel    **\*\*Primary Habitat\*\***    **Notes:** *migratory corridor***Habitat System Name:** Embayment    **Notes:** *migratory route***Formation Name      Subtidal****Macrogroup Name      Subtidal Pelagic (Water Column)****Habitat System Name:** Confined Channel    **\*\*Primary Habitat\*\***    **Notes:** *migratory corridor***Habitat System Name:** Nearshore    **Notes:** *assumed feeding habitat and migratory corridor*

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Stressor Priority Level based on Severity and Actionability	Moderate Severity		High Severity	
	Highly Actionable		Medium-High	
	Moderately Actionable		Medium	
	Actionable with Difficulty		Low	

**IUCN Level 1 Threat**      **Biological Resource Use****IUCN Level 2 Threat:**      Fishing and Harvesting of Aquatic Resources**Severity:** Moderate Severity      **Actionability:** Moderately actionable**Notes:** Extraction rates may be low in some cases but mortality rates are high in some populations. Regulations can be implemented to close fisheries and effect is measurable within 2-3 generations of the population, but may be difficult to implement.**IUCN Level 1 Threat**      **Energy Production and Mining****IUCN Level 2 Threat:**      Renewable Energy**Severity:** Moderate Severity      **Actionability:** Moderately actionable**Notes:** Some proposed renewable energy projects such as tidal barrages or tide driven turbines may significantly impact anadromous species by either obstructing or greatly reducing natural migration routes, as well as mortality associated with turbine strikes.**IUCN Level 1 Threat**      **Human Intrusions and Disturbance****IUCN Level 2 Threat:**      Recreational Activities**Severity:** Moderate Severity      **Actionability:** Moderately actionable**Notes:** Extraction rates may be low in some cases but mortality rates are high in some populations. Regulations can be implemented to close fisheries and effect is measurable within 2-3 generations of the population, but may be difficult to implement.**IUCN Level 1 Threat**      **Natural Systems Modifications****IUCN Level 2 Threat:**      Dams and Water Management-Use**Severity:** Moderate Severity      **Actionability:** Moderately actionable**Notes:** Some head of tide dams remain in Maine and limit or obstruct access to habitat. Dam removals on the Kennebec and Penobscot have already occurred and opened access to historical habitat, but the long-term effects of reduced habitat could be difficult to recover from.**IUCN Level 1 Threat**      **Pollution****IUCN Level 2 Threat:**      Domestic and Urban Waste Water**Severity:** Moderate Severity      **Actionability:** Moderately actionable**Notes:** The specific causes of impact are increased non-point source pollution (heavy metals and nutrient inputs), increased turbidity, and lower dissolved oxygen. Likelihood is high and increasing (high certainty), current spatial extent is Southern Maine, but expanding along coast, so actionability is moderate, i.e. the threat can be minimized in newly developing areas.

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None. *Only species specific conservation actions that address high (red) or medium-high (orange) priority stressors are summarized here.*

**Guild Level Conservation Actions:**

This Species is currently not attributed to a guild.

**Broad Taxonomic Group Conservation Actions:**

Relevant conservation actions for this species are assigned within broader taxonomic groups in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-1.

**Habitat Based Conservation Actions:**

Additional conservation actions that may benefit habitat(s) associated with this species can be found in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-15. Click on the Habitat Grouping of interest to launch a habitat based report summarizing relevant conservation actions and associated SGCN.

*The Wildlife Action Plan was developed through a lengthy participatory process with state agencies, targeted conservation partners, and the general public. The Plan is non-regulatory. The species, stressors, and voluntary conservation actions identified in the Plan complement, but do not replace, existing work programs and priorities by state agencies and partners.*